United Nations S/2011/483

Security Council

Distr.: General
2 August 2011

Original: English

Identical letters dated 1 August 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to express my grave concern regarding a serious incident that took place this morning in the area of the Blue Line between Israel and Lebanon.

Today, at approximately 7 a.m. local time, a soldier from the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) opened fire on Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers situated south of the Blue Line. This unprovoked attack by the LAF is a clear violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006).

This is my second letter in the last two weeks dealing with Lebanese acts of provocation on the northern border. This incident is indicative of a clear pattern of provocative acts by the LAF, which has repeatedly shown itself trigger-happy and quick to open fire. In the past this has led to fatalities: on 3 August 2010, in another unprovoked attack, the LAF shot and killed reservist IDF Battalion Commander Lieutenant Colonel Dov Harari. Miraculously, no casualities have been reported in this incident.

The IDF has fully cooperated with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) investigation into the incident and will continue to do so. At all times, the IDF remained south of the Blue Line, in compliance with Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). I would like to emphasize that the IDF responded in self-defence only after being fired upon, acting with maximum restraint.

We demand that the Government of Lebanon fully investigate the role of the LAF in causing this provocation. Moreover, we expect the Government of Lebanon to take all necessary measures to prevent such dangerous incidents from reoccurring in the future, and to ensure that the Blue Line is respected in its entirety.

We also call upon the international community to take action to prevent further provocations, conveying a clear message to the Government of Lebanon that such attacks are not only in violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), but also carry with them a serious potential for escalation, threatening peace and stability in this area.

11-44112 (E) 040811

Please recycle

Israel remains determined to protect its borders, civilians and soldiers from unlawful provocations such as the one that took place this morning. Israel will continue to take great efforts to maintain regional peace and security and hopes that our neighbours will act in the same responsible way.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ron **Prosor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative